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The California Council for the Humanities is a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Network is published quarterly and mailed to anyone who requests it from the San Francisco office.

## WHY COMMUNITY HERITAGE?

by James Quay  
Executive Director

In the last issue of Humanities Network, the Council announced a major request for proposals for projects that explore "community heritage." In this column, I'd like to tell you why the Council considers "community heritage" a topic worth investing in.

The Council's interest in the connection between community and the humanities dates from its founding in 1975, when "the pursuit of community in California" was selected to be the thematic focus of the new Council's first grant program. Since then, of course, the Council has not only funded hundreds of programs bearing on local and community history, but in the last decade has itself conducted a series of conferences and projects exploring community as a concept and community history as a reality.

We're putting what we've learned from such projects into a manual that will be available later this spring, but a central lesson is that the Los Angeles riots of 1992 have convinced many Californians of the need to overcome the barriers that divide communities. While the proliferation of global media continues to make distant resources increasingly available to anyone with a phone or cable line, local communities are strengthened most when people meet face-to-face and talk about the issues in the place where they live. All over California, we have found people eager to learn more about their heritage, the stories of the places they live. The humanities can help.

### Beyond the Sesquicentennial and Gold Rush History

An investigation of community heritage is a logical next step to the current activity being generated by the California Sesquicentennial. Sesquicentennial Commission Chair Kevin Starr has noted that more than 500 localities have planned activities to commemorate events from the period 1848-1850. It seemed opportune to build upon this local interest and encourage communities to expand their explorations beyond the confines of the Gold Rush period to other sources of community heritage, including other kinds of "rushes" and waves of immigration that have shaped and are shaping cities and regions in California since the Gold Rush.

CCH also wanted to expand the exploration beyond history to include folklore and literature and to encourage connections with the stories of those who came before us and the issues they struggled with. The great success of the "Highway 99" anthology and the project that surrounded it demonstrated how gathering together the literature of a region could mobilize both regional pride and curiosity.

One great appeal of stories is that they impose a kind of order on the flux of time and suggest a meaning or purpose to what might otherwise be a random sequence of events. Author William Kittredge has written "what we need most urgently, both in the West, and all over America, is a fresh dream of who we are that will tell us how we should act... We want the story of our society to have a sensible plot. We want it to go somewhere: we want it to mean something."

If we ponder awhile, we may be able to identify a story told by our individual life, and some of us may be able to see that story as part of a family story — a story of choices and precedents: the first to emigrate to America or California, perhaps, or the first to be able to read or write, to attend college, to own a home or a business. Some of us may see ourselves or our families as participants in an American story, part of a quest for increased freedom, whether personal or political or economic. The story grows more

*Author William Kittredge has written 'what we need most urgently, both in the West, and all over America, is a fresh dream of who we are that will tell us how we should act...'*

complex when we acknowledge that the gains of some may mean losses for others, an important recognition if the story is to be an inclusive one. Nevertheless, insisting on a role in the larger American narrative both animates us as individuals and enriches the larger story.

Other stories await our participation as well, for we are characters in the life of our neighborhoods and communities, at times active, at times passive. Either way, the invitation to define, tell, contribute to, and shape these stories is always there, and the invitation to explore community heritage is really a double invitation to both learn and participate. First, to learn about the people who have contributed to making our community what it is today, and then to participate by building consciously upon the heritage that they have left us.

It is the Council's conviction that the act of recovering and articulating a particular community's heritage will itself help strengthen that community. Stories that capture our community's characters are the stories that will show the character of our communities. At the same time, the recovery and publication of the many stories will also enrich our common heritage as Californians and help delineate the character of the state. We hope many communities, including yours, will respond to this invitation.

## Sunset Magazine: A Century of Western Living 1898-1998

*Sunset Magazine: One Hundred Years of Western Living 1898-1998* chronicles the development of the magazine that has both documented and shaped life in the West. The exhibit features original cover illustrations by such artists as Maynard Dixon and Maurice Logan (see right), as well as artifacts and articles illustrating the innovations and ideas that *Sunset* has introduced to American life.

The exhibit, which was originally produced by the

California Historical Society (CHS), the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and the Stanford University libraries, is now being toured by the California Council for the Humanities (CCH) along with presentations and public humanities programs developed jointly by CCH and the California Exhibi-

tion Resources Alliance (CERA). For exhibit dates and locations, see the calendar pages inside.



Photo by Visual Arts Services



# Grants Awarded

## CALIFORNIA SESQUICENTENNIAL

### The California Missions: Buried History

*Sponsor: International Documentary Association, Los Angeles*

*Project Director: Michael L. Rose*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*

The California missions – collisions of the Old and New Worlds – have been a controversial subject since their destruction in the mid-1800s. This script development grant is for a one-hour television documentary that will bring recent scholarship to light from the fields of history, anthropology, and archaeology to add a new dimension to the discussion by exploring the Native American experience of the California missions. Several humanities scholars as well as living descendants of Mission Indians will tell why many of them are re-examining the historical record. The film, which received a CCH planning grant in August 1998, will incorporate oral histories, diaries of mission Indians, and reinterpretations of anthropological studies to examine how the mission era in California has often been romanticized.

### Distant Gold: Inland Southern California 1848-1882

*Sponsor: Museum of History and Art, Ontario*

*Project Director: Theresa Hanley*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*

In 1848, when gold was discovered in Northern California, the southern region now known as the Inland Empire was typically Californio, dominated by large ranchos and a few families. Within thirty years, however, the region was completely transformed into a market-based American economy and culture. This program award will support research and development of an exhibition exploring the legacy left by the Gold Rush era to a place far from the gold fields themselves. The central exhibit is scheduled to open April 21, 1999, at the Museum of History and Art, Ontario. The project also involves fourteen satellite displays throughout a network of regional historic sites, museums, and libraries, a related publication, and a series of public programs that will include four "Rediscovering California at 150" Chautauqua performances in April and May of 1999.

### 'I Wish I'd Never Heard of California' – A Sesquicentennial Series about Gold Rush Widows on the Home Frontier

*Sponsor: California State Parks, Sacramento*

*Project Director: Mary A. Helmich*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*

When news of gold at Coloma reached the States, thousands of men set out for California, and most of those who were married left their wives behind. These "Gold Rush widows" were obliged to assume the unaccustomed role of surrogate husband during long absences; gender lines were crossed as wives invaded courthouses, banks, and lumber mills to pay taxes, bring suits against debtors, petition for more time on mortgages and loans, and, in some cases, to send hard-earned butter-and-egg money West to broke and disillusioned husbands. This program grant will fund research for a multi-site lecture tour, beginning in April 1999, in which historical societies and libraries in outlying communities will join twelve California State Parks in celebrating State Parks Month and California's Sesquicentennial through presentations featuring site-specific dialogues on Forty-niner wives.



Children in the window of the 1870 Antonio Peralta House in Oakland, California, at the opening celebration of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park. From "The Land Is Our Gold." (Photo by Lorne Lentz)

### The Land is Our Gold

*Sponsor: Comité Hispanoamericano Por Lengua y Cultura, Berkeley*

*Project Director: Holly Alonso*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*

Luis Peralta first came to Northern California with the de Anza expedition in 1775, at the age of 16. In 1820, he received a 44,000-acre Spanish land grant, now thought to be the single most valuable ever made in the state; he divided it among his sons and, with their wives, families, and the surrounding Native Peoples, they established the first Spanish-speaking communities in the East Bay. By 1890, however, the Peraltas had lost everything: land, livelihood, and social position. This script development grant is for a 60-minute video documentary that will recall the story of four generations of a 19th century Spanish-speaking family in Northern California and their interactions first with Native Americans and, later, with U.S. settlers. The film will explore the parallels and contrasts behind the legal and cultural defeat of the Mexican landowners and the indigenous peoples, and the mechanisms at work as English-speaking settlers streamed into California.



A child of Japanese immigrants to America holds her country's flag, ca. 1918. (Collection of Shizuko Horiuchi, Japanese American National Museum)

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### City of Angels Community Conference & Festival: Celebrating and Educating Los Angeles at the Edge of the 21st Century

*Sponsor: Los Angeles City College*

*Project Director: Galust Mardirussian*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*

Los Angeles: Urban utopia of the American Dream, or dysfunctional "Hell Town" grown to gargantuan proportions? Given the overwhelming demographic changes the region has undergone, and the rich cultural diversity of its 15 million inhabitants, there is much debate about the present and future of this multicultural metropolis. This public program award will help broaden the discussion through a conference integrating academic lectures and presentations by scholars, educators, artists, and community leaders with cross-cultural entertainment and cuisine. The weekend festival and conference, which will take place from April 30 through May 1, 1999, evolved from a innovative program established at Los Angeles City College that allowed study of the socio-historical, geopolitical, aesthetic, and cultural aspects of Los Angeles through lectures, panel discussions, and first-hand experiential learning opportunities.

### Common Ground: The Heart of Community

*Sponsor: Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles*

*Project Director: Rick Noguchi*

*Amount of Award: \$5,000 in outright funds*

Many Californians are aware of the facts surrounding the federally-ordered incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in concentration camps during WWII. Not so widely understood is why the "camp" experience has become such a powerful event in the Japanese-American community, even for those who were not imprisoned, and particularly for many third- and fourth-generation children of the internees. This program award will support eight scholarly lectures and discussions that will explore themes related to the "Common Ground" exhibition, on view from January 1999 through January 2001 in the Japanese American National Museum's new Pavilion in Los Angeles. The lectures and exhibition explore universal as well as culturally-specific themes of immigration experiences, home life, business, social organizations, education, and religion.



# Grants Awarded

## Forty Acre Dreams: Agriculture and Immigration in the Great Central Valley

*Sponsor: Merced County Courthouse Museum, Merced*

*Project Director: Andrea Morris Metz*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*  
From Punjabi plum farmers in Sutter County, to Hmong strawberry farmers in Fresno County, the Central Valley's social and agricultural landscape forms one of the most complex rural tapestries in the world. Many of these immigrants, who come from largely agrarian societies, find that the vast technical and capital resources demanded by agriculture in the Valley often place the traditional dream of owning a small farm beyond reach. This public program grant will fund development of a traveling exhibit which, through original photography, recorded oral histories, and other means, will examine the state of rural society in the Valley today, focusing on linkages between present and past immigrant groups. The exhibition is scheduled to open in Merced in April 2000, and to travel the length of the valley, with confirmed six-week venues in Yuba City, Lodi, Modesto, Fresno, Tulare, and Bakersfield.

## Rediscovering Asian American Riverside

*Sponsor: Center for Asian Pacific America, UC Riverside*

*Project Director: Deborah Wong*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*  
By the 1880s, concentrations of Chinese and Japanese immigrants lived in Riverside – the center of Southern California's citrus industry. By the 1920s, however, these groups had nearly vanished from the area due to anti-Asian hostility, and these numbers were further reduced after the Japanese American internment during 1942-45. This project grant, building on a CCH planning grant awarded in August 1998, will fund research and creation of an interactive web site exploring the history of Asian Americans in Riverside, including recent Korean and South and Southeast Asian immigrants. The web site, scheduled to launch in September 2000, will integrate oral history interviews gathered from Asian Americans and Riverside community members. The transcribed interviews, along with historical documents and archival photographs, will be deposited in the Riverside Central Library, and three related public lectures will be offered beginning in November 1999.

## "Watts is L.A.!" Cultural Bus Tours

*Sponsor: Watts Labor Community Action Committee*

*Project Director: Cheryl Branch*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*  
Since the turn of the century, the Los Angeles community of Watts has served as a way station for African Americans, European Americans, Latinos, Japanese Americans, and other ethnic groups. Watts, with housing stock pre-dating WWII, has seen many changes in its day, including Swedish immigration and Black secession, annexation from the City of Los Angeles, Klu Klux Klan influences, covenant laws, the 1965 riots, and the civil unrest of 1992. This public program award, which follows a 1997 CCH planning grant, will support research and development of itineraries, maps, and tours for the "Watts is L.A.!" cultural tourism project. The tours, which will be offered free to the public on May 15, 1999, in conjunction with other "Watts is L.A.!" festivities, will allow participants to choose from several docent-guided bus and self-guided walking tours designed to explore the historical development of Watts.



Birthday Party. Three Rocks, California. From "Forty Acre Dreams: Agriculture and Immigration in the Great Central Valley." (Photo by Matthew Black)

## The Whole World's Watching: Images of California's Social Justice Movements of the 1960s and Early 1970s

*Sponsor: Berkeley Art Center*

*Project Director: Robbin Henderson*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*  
Northern and Central California, particularly the San Francisco Bay Area, were key arenas in the political, social, and cultural upheavals of the 1960s and early 1970s—the Free Speech Movement, the Black Panthers, the Women's Liberation Movement, the Disabled Rights Movement, the demonstrations against HUAC, anti-war protests, the formations of the United Farm Worker's Union, the Native American Movement, and the counter culture explosion. This public program award will help fund a team of humanities scholars, participants, and writers in developing an exhibition of photojournalism from this eventful period. Through wall texts, docent-led exhibit tours, ancillary public programs, films, a teachers' guide, and a free brochure, the public will have an opportunity to meet some of the photo-journalists and personalities who shaped and documented the era, and to see how communities with common struggles came together to build the unique institutions of California.

## MEDIA PROJECTS

## SCRIPTS

## Crossing the Rainbow Bridge II: The Pow-wow Bridge

*Sponsor: East Bay Media Center, Berkeley*

*Project Director: Kat High*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*  
Ancient legend holds that Native Hawaiians visited Coastal California long before Europeans: After their canoes were dashed on the rocks, they wandered for years until settling in the *Bo-ma-rhee* (the Fall River Valley). There the Hawaiians mingled with the A-juma-wi people until A-poni-ha (Cacoonman), who lived atop Ako-yet (Mt. Shasta), created a Rainbow Bridge to help some return to the Big Island. This intersection of two cultures, which has spanned from mythic time into the present-day, recently resulted in two Pow-wows in 1993 and 1994 of people of California Indian/Hawaiian ancestry. This script development grant is for the second in a three-part series of documentaries exploring the legendary and historic connection between California Indians and Native Hawaiians. The film will include interviews and location footage taken at the second Pow-wow in 1994.

## Cul de Sac: A Suburban War Story

*Sponsor: Bay Area Video Coalition, San Francisco*

*Project Director: Garrett Scott*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*  
Clairemont, a massive subdivision just north of downtown San Diego, once epitomized the single-family, ranch style homes associated with prosperity and stability in the years immediately following WWII. In 1995, four years after a final round of factory closures in San Diego's lucrative military-industrial complex devastated Clairemont's "California Dream," 35-year-old Sean Nelson stole a tank from the National Guard armory and went on a hour-long "rampage" through the streets of his hometown until he was killed by police—an act which many community residents openly consider "a cry for help." This media grant will help fund final scripting and research of a 60-minute documentary exploring the economic and cultural decline of a postwar suburban community. Using Nelson as a focal point, the film investigates, through oral interviews with friends, family, police, real estate agents, historians, and city administrators, a community "sending a message" about deindustrialization, obsolescence, downward mobility, and despair.



The dreams and ideas behind the failed attempt during the 1950s and 60s to build a recreational town at Salton Sea, California, are the subject of a new documentary titled "Salton City — Miracle in the Desert," directed by Paul Alexander Juutilainen.

## Brown Zone — Twilight of Paradise

*Sponsor: KPBS-TV, San Diego*

*Project Director: Paul Alexander Juutilainen*

*Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds*  
The Salton Sea is a 45-mile long accident that was created in 1905 when the flooding Colorado River overflowed irrigation canals and poured, in a 28-foot waterfall, into the Salton Sink in Imperial Valley. On its shores today, Salton City, a recreational development promoted in the 1950s as a "Miracle in the Desert," now lies unfinished, abandoned by its original developer and increasingly flooded by rising sea levels. Huge bird and fish die-offs and the Sonny Bono Salton Sea Reclamation Bill have recently brought national media attention to the area. This script development award is for a 57-minute documentary that will illuminate the history of failed and abandoned urban planning initiatives while examining what effect consumerism, land management policies, and postwar ideas of unlimited technological progress have had on a diverse California desert community.



# Grants Awarded



Beef rancher Merv McDonald reflects on stewardship of the land in the West Marin Ranching Oral History Project: "If you take care of the grass, the grass will take care of you." (Photo by Joan Rosen)

## Small Town, Big Store

Sponsor: MXP Productions, San Rafael

Project Director: Micha Peled

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

The arrival of the discount mega-store in the 1990s has accelerated the urbanization of small towns and suburbs, where more than half of all Californians live. A new mega-store opens in California each week. This script development award is for a one-hour documentary focusing on a small California town struggling with the decision to let in a discount mega-store. By following both sides of the divisive debate in which residents articulate their values and visions for their community, the film will examine the cultural shift from the traditional Main Street to a modern mall as the new "village square" and the interplay of personal and community values, commerce, democracy, and local government.

## Lalo Guerrero — A Life in Music

Sponsor: International Documentary Association, North Hollywood

Project Director: Sean Carrillo

Amount of Award: \$5,000 in outright funds

The work of California musician and composer Eduardo "Lalo" Guerrero has crossed over racial, ethnic, and linguistic barriers for more than six decades. Guerrero, who was presented by President Clinton with the Medal of Arts in 1996 and who has been declared a "National Folk Treasure" by the Smithsonian Institution, is a cultural icon in the Chicano community whose experience, struggles, and values his life and work epitomize. This script development grant is for a one-hour video documentary that will focus on Guerrero's life and career as a living history of the 20th Century as reflected by the Mexican American experience. Through interviews, archival footage, music, and voice-overs, the film will link personal history to social history, explore the impact of racism and discrimination, and celebrate the confluence of the musical and cultural traditions that Guerrero has helped create.

## Takin' Space/Makin' Place

Sponsor: The Arroyo Arts Collective, Highland Park

Project Director: Susan Mogul

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

How do individuals in Los Angeles today define and portray themselves in relation to specific places and to the city as a whole? The experience of everyday life in a heterogeneous city populated by recent immigrants from many cultures, races, and ethnic groups, has become increasingly more complex as segregation and tension among often-competing groups complicate personal and social perceptions of people and places. This script development award is for a public television documentary examining how a diverse group of people—the volunteers and staff of ARTScorpLA, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening neighborhoods, developing life skills, and studying art and culture—are building and defining community in Los Angeles. By means of video diaries, interviews, and local interactions, the film will articulate the interplay between private and public space in an urban environment.

## West Marin Ranching Oral History Project

Sponsor: Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Pt. Reyes Station

Project Director: Elisabeth Ptak

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

Historically significant farm and ranch operations have thrived in West Marin County—the birthplace of the California dairy industry—since the mid-19th century when the Californios began working the land. A succession of immigrants from Ireland, Switzerland, Portugal, and Italy followed in their footsteps. Despite threats of suburban sprawl and commercial development, West Marin ranching has survived to this day, due in large part to the efforts of an unusual alliance of ranchers, environmentalists, planners, and other community members who first came together in the 1970s: the Marin Agricultural Land Trust. This media grant will help fund the final recordings, transcriptions, and studio production for a radio program examining the historical background of West Marin ranching while telling the story of how diverse groups came together to preserve the historic character, environmental integrity, traditional rural cultures, and economic stability of an area that was destined for high-density development. Broadcast is slated for spring of 1999.

## We Live Among You: A Documentary about the Coast Miwok People, The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

Sponsor: Families Learning Together, San Francisco

Project Director: Wallace Murray

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

Archeological findings indicate that the Coast Miwok inhabited a network of villages that spanned the general area of Marin County north to Bodega Bay for 3,000 years before the arrival of Sir Francis Drake in 1579. Once thought by some anthropologists to be extinct, these original inhabitants of Marin and Sonoma counties are now striving for tribal recognition from Congress and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Their plight involves issues faced by over 80,000 unrecognized Native American people in California today. This script development award is for a video documentary which, through a historical examination of political and social events in California since statehood, will bring to light new information on the Coast Miwok people as well as insight into the concerns and way of life of contemporary California Indians.



California musician Eduardo "Lalo" Guerrero — Paris, February 1998. (Photo by Sean Carrillo)



## WINTER Calendar

The public humanities programs listed on these two pages were either created or supported by the California Council for the Humanities. Please note that dates and times should be confirmed with the local sponsors. These listings are often provided to CCH well before final arrangements are made.

Please also check the monthly calendar listings on the Council's World Wide Web pages at <http://www.calhum.org/calendar.html>.

### EXHIBITS



From the Council's "Overland" Traveling Exhibit. The tree where Joseph Donner pitched his tent and perished, Alder Creek, California. (Photo by Greg MacGregor)

**Thru Mar. 7** "Overland: The California Emigrant Trail of 1841-1870" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of contemporary images of the pioneer trails juxtaposed with excerpts from pioneer diaries and other commentary. Sonoma County Museum, 425 Seventh Street, Santa Rosa. 707/679-1500.

**Thru Mar. 28** "Gold Fever! Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush" is the Council-commissioned, multidimensional traveling exhibit about the California Gold Rush, adapted from the Oakland Museum's major "Gold Fever!" exhibit, with additional displays about the Gold Rush's impact on the Fresno area (sponsored by the Fresno County Historical Society). Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno Street. 209/441-0862.

**Thru Apr. 4** "Gold Fever! Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush," the Council-commissioned, multidimensional traveling exhibit about the California Gold Rush, is also at the Chico Museum, 141 Salem Street, Chico. 916/891-4336.

**Thru Aug. 1, 1999** "Picks, Plows and Potatoes: the Santa Cruz Region During the Gold Rush" is a multi-faceted exhibit that examines life around the Monterey Bay 150 years ago and highlights the changes wrought in the region by the discovery of gold in 1848. Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street, Santa Cruz. 408/429-1964.

**Thru Dec. 31, 1999** "Parallel Journeys: Migration to San Marcos, 1873-1998," an exhibit of photographs and artifacts, connects the migration and settling experience of early residents with that of more recent immigrants to the San Marcos Valley. San Marcos Historical Society and Museum, 270 W. San Marcos Blvd, San Marcos. 760/744-9025.

**Feb. 12 - Mar. 25** "From Hearth to Heaven: Chinatown Living" is an exhibit highlighting the Chinese American experience in Los Angeles, developed by the Museum of Chinese American History. Gallery of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. 213/680-2525.

**Feb. 15 - Mar. 19** "Sunset Magazine: One Hundred Years of Western Living, 1898-1998" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit chronicling the development of one of the premiere lifestyle magazines in the country and its influence on American lifestyle, from the popularization of the barbecue to the use of innovative technologies in home design. Lompoc Museum, 200 South H St, Lompoc. 805/736-3888.



Cover of Sunset, September 1934, with In Zion, Maynard Dixon (1875-1946). (Photo by Visual Arts Services)



From "Gold Fever! Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush" exhibit. "Spanish Flat," 1852. Attributed to J.B. Starkweather. Collection of the California State Library.

**Apr. 4 - Jun. 1** "Gold Fever! Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush," the Council-commissioned, multidimensional traveling exhibit about the California Gold Rush, moves to the History Museums of San Jose, 1650 Center Road, San Jose. 408/918-1047.

**Apr. 8 - Jun. 11** "Gold Fever! Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush," the Council-commissioned, multidimensional traveling exhibit about the California Gold Rush, is also at the San Diego Historical Society, Balboa Park, San Diego. 619/232-6203.

**Apr. 21 - Aug. 1** The "Distant Gold: Inland Southern California, 1848-1882" exhibit explores the impact and legacies of the California Gold Rush in a place far distant from the gold fields. Museum of History and Art, Ontario. 225 South Euclid Ave., Ontario. 909/983-3198.

### EVENTS

**Jan. 27** Olga Loya portrays Juana Briones, one of early California's most prominent and successful women, in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua in Pleasanton." Pleasanton Branch of the Alameda County Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. 925/462-3535 for time and additional information.



# HUMANITIES Calendar



Charlie Chin portrays Yee Fung Cheung in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua."

**Feb. 3** Scholar/performer Charlie Chin portrays Gold-Rush era healer, Yee Fung Cheung in a "History Alive! Chautauqua" program sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. 7 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Castelar Elementary School, 840 Yale St., Los Angeles. 323/222-0856.

**Feb. 6** The "Golden Era: 1900 to 1929" seminar explores the development of literature, motion pictures and photography in the greater San Diego area from the turn of the century until the Great Depression. 10 a.m. Winn Room, Coronado Public Library, 460 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 619/522-7393. Part of "The Literary History of San Diego" project.

**Feb. 10** "Clouded Legacy: The Gold Rush and California Indians" is a lecture by Albert L. Hurtado from Arizona State. The program is part of the "Gold Rush Sesquicentennial Lectures," a series of 15 public lectures by outstanding historians focusing on the history and legacies of the California Gold Rush. 7 p.m., University Ballroom, Student Union, California State University, Sacramento. 916/278-6589.

**Feb. 17** Scholar/performer Rhonnie Washington portrays William Leidesdorff, a ship captain and entrepreneur of African and Danish descent who became an important businessman in early San Francisco. Eagle Theater, Sacramento. Call the African American Portrait Collection (916/368-3041) for more information.

**Feb. 18** Scholar/performer Charlie Chin portrays Gold Rush-era healer, Yee Fung Cheung in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. 7 p.m. Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road. 925/376-8294.

**Feb. 19** "Redress Then and Now," a free lecture/discussion, is part of a year-long lecture series examining themes related to the "Common Ground: The Heart of Community" exhibit. 7 p.m. Central Hall, Japanese American National Museum Pavilion, 369 First St., Los Angeles. 213/625-0414.

**Feb. 20** Sandra Kamusikiri portrays Biddy Mason, the former slave who played a prominent role in the early history of Los Angeles. A CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Yucca Valley Library, 57098 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley. 760/228-5455.

**Feb. 25-26** David Fenimore portrays John Sutter, owner of the site where the California Gold Rush began, in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Lassen County Historical Society, Susanville. 530/257-4584.



Susheel Bibbs portrays Mary Ellen Pleasant in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua."

**Feb. 27** Scholar/performer Susheel Bibbs portrays Mary Ellen Pleasant, who was born a slave and became known as the "Mother of Civil Rights in California," in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. In Los Angeles. Sponsored by the California Alumni Association. 877/225-2586.

**Mar. 5** Scholar/performer Dan Lewis portrays Mariano Vallejo, the "First Citizen of California," who held both military and civil authority over a vast area of Northern California during the Mexican period. A CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. 6 p.m. Sonoma County Museum, 425 Seventh St., Santa Rosa. 707/579-1500.



General Mariano Vallejo as portrayed by Daniel Lewis. General Vallejo is one of thirteen Gold Rush-era personalities the Council is bringing to life in its "History Alive! Chautauqua" program.

**Mar. 6** Olga Loya portrays Juana Briones, one of early California's most prominent and successful women, in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. San Mateo County Historical Society, 1700 West Hillside Blvd., San Mateo. 650/574-6441.



Juana Briones as portrayed by Olga Loya in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua."

**Mar. 10** "Do You Think I'll Lug Trunks?: African Americans in Gold Rush California" is a lecture by Shirley Ann Wilson Moore of CSU Sacramento. Part of the "Gold Rush Sesquicentennial Lectures," a 15-part series featuring outstanding historians. 7 p.m., University Ballroom, Student Union, California State University, Sacramento. 916/278-6589.

**Mar. 12** "Bracero Presentations" is a theatrical presentation featuring the work of Lalo Guerrero, followed by a discussion. San Jose Stage, San Jose. 408/469-1569 for more information.

**Mar. 13** "Flyer's in Search of a Dream," a CCH-sponsored documentary film about pioneering African American aviators, will be screened, followed by a discussion led by historian Malik Simba. Noon. Lyles Theater, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1515 Van Ness. 559/441-1444.



In 1932, James Herman Banning, accompanied by mechanic Thomas C. Allen (pictured above), was the first black pilot to successfully complete a transcontinental flight.

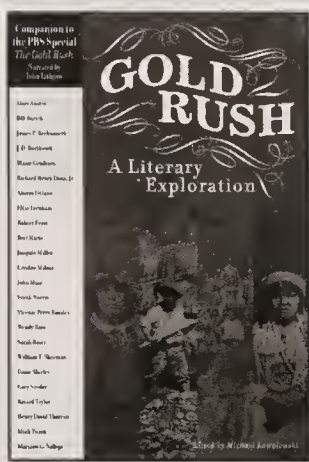
**Mar. 13** "Modernist Era: 1930 to Present" is a conference on San Diego writers, publishers, and literati of recent times. Part of "The Literary History of San Diego" series. 1 p.m. The Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street, La Jolla. 619/454-5872.

**Mar. 18** José Rivera portrays José Jesus, the leader of the Siakumne Yokuts who became known as the "Christian Horse Thief," in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Fresno Historical Society, Fresno. 209/441-0862.



**Mar. 20** Olga Loya portrays Juana Briones, one of early California's most prominent and successful women in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. AAUW, Palo Alto. 650/329-9854.

**Mar. 20** "A Discussion with Rafu Shimpo Columnists" is the third program in a year-long lecture/discussion series examining themes related to the "Common Ground: The Heart of Community" exhibit. 1 p.m. Education Center, Japanese American National Museum Historic Building, 369 First St., Los Angeles. 213/625-0414.



*The boisterous, diverse, and thought-provoking writings generated by the Gold Rush are anthologized in CCH's "Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration."*

**Mar. 23** Michael Kowalewski, editor of CCH's Gold Rush Anthology, presents a public lecture on the California Gold Rush. 7 p.m. Community Room, Monterey Public Library, 625 Pacific St. 831/646-3932.

**Mar. 24** Michael Kowalewski, editor of CCH's Gold Rush Anthology, presents a public lecture on the California Gold Rush. 7 p.m. Turlock Public Library, 550 Minoret. 209/667-9019.

**Mar. 24** "Never Far From Home: Being Chinese in the California Gold Rush" is lecture by writer Sylvia Sun Minnick. Part of the Gold Rush Sesquicentennial Lectures, a 15-part series of lectures by outstanding historians. 7 p.m., 828 "I" Street. Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, Main Library, Sacramento. 916/278-6589.

**Mar. 25** Kate Magruder portrays "Dame Shirley," who wrote marvelous first-hand accounts of life in the California gold fields. A CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Pleasanton Branch Alameda County Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave, Pleasanton. 925/462-3535.

**Apr. 1** Kate Magruder portrays "Dame Shirley," the author a vibrant first-hand accounts of life in the California gold fields. A CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Sutter County Library, 750 Forbes Ave., Yuba City. 530/822-7137.



*Kate Magruder portrays Louise Clappe, who wrote vivid descriptions of life in the gold camps using the pen name "Dame Shirley." A CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua."*

**Apr. 7** "The Last Fandango: Women, Work, and the End of the California Gold Rush" is a lecture by Susan Johnson from the University of Colorado. Part of the "Gold Rush Sesquicentennial Lectures," a 15-part series featuring outstanding historians. 7 p.m., 1020 "O" Street, California State Archives Auditorium, Secretary of State/State Archives building, Sacramento. 916/278-6589.

**Apr. 12-13** Sandra Kamusikiri portrays Biddy Mason, the former slave who played a prominent role in the early history of Los Angeles. A CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Placentia Library, 411 E. Chapman, Placentia. 714/528-1906.



*Captain Healy (right) with his son Fred, circa 1890. Courtesy of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.*

**Apr. 17** Premiere screening and reception for the CCH-supported documentary film "The Odyssey of Captain Healy," which highlights the life of Captain Michael A. Healy (1839-1904) an ex-slave and one of the best-known sailors on the Pacific Coast during the era. 7 p.m. Aboard the square-rigger BALCLUTHA. Hyde St. Pier, San Francisco. 510/451-9226.

**Apr. 21** "After California: Later Gold Rushes of the Pacific Basin" is a lecture by Jeremy Mouat from the University of Athabasca. Part of the "Gold Rush Sesquicentennial Lectures," a 15-part series featuring outstanding historians. 7 p.m., California State Archives Auditorium, Secretary of State/State Archives Building, 1020 "O" Street, Sacramento. 916/278-6589.

**Apr. 22-23** Kate Magruder portrays Gold Rush chronicler "Dame Shirley" and Roberto Garzo portrays Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California, in a series of CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua" programs related to the opening of the "Distant Gold" exhibit at the Museum of History and Art, Ontario. Call the museum for details: 909/983-3198.

**Apr. 24** "1999 Poetry Day" is a day-long festival of poetry readings, workshops, and workshops celebrating National Poetry Month. The Quadrangle, Menlo Park College, 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton. 650/323-6141.

**Apr. 24** "Writing the Japanese American Experience: Nikkei and Non-Nikkei" is the fourth program in a year-long lecture/discussion series examining themes related to the "Common Ground: The Heart of Community" exhibit. 1 p.m., Education Center, Japanese American National Museum Historic Building, 369 First St., Los Angeles. 213/625-0414.

**Apr. 30-May 1** The "City of Angels Community Conference and Festival" explores the cultural heritage of Los Angeles and features such speakers as Mike Davis, author of *City of Quartz*, and James Allen, co-author of *The Ethnic Quilt: Population Diversity in Southern California*. Los Angeles City College, 855 N. Vermont Ave. 323/953-4037.

**May 5** "After the Days of the Cows, Fiestas, and Honorable Caballeros: Forging the Californio Legacy" is a lecture by historian Douglas Monroy held in conjunction with the "Distant Gold" exhibit in Ontario. At the Chaffey Communities Cultural Center, Upland. Call the Museum of History and Art, Ontario for details: 909/983-3198.

**May 20-21** José Rivera portrays Indian tax revolt leader Antonio Garra and Sandra Kamusikiri portrays Biddy Mason, a former slave who played a prominent role in the early history of Los Angeles, in a series of "History Alive! Chautauqua" programs presented in conjunction with the "Distant Gold" exhibit at the Museum of History and Art, Ontario. Call the museum for details: 909/983-3198.



*José Rivera portrays Antonio Garra in a CCH "History Alive! Chautauqua."*



# RICARDO O. ALVARADO: PAST PHOTOGRAPHS, EVER-PRESENT VISIONS

*Editor's Note: The Council recently supported "Through My Father's Eyes: Pioneers of the San Francisco Filipino American Community," an exhibit of photographs taken by Ricardo Alvarado in the 1950s and 1960s portraying the Filipino American community of San Francisco. The exhibit, held at the San Francisco Main Library, included a symposium exploring related topics; the following essay, by Dr. David Matsuda, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the College of San Mateo, and consultant to the Alvarado Project, was the opening paper.*

To celebrate the photographs of Ricardo O. Alvarado is not merely to pay homage to a significant, "undiscovered" artist of color. It is rather to celebrate the work of a Filipino American who saw in the United States a diversity that others either did not see, or at least did not acknowledge.

To fully appreciate Alvarado's life's work, we must try to understand him as someone who was simultaneously a product of his time, and, more importantly, as someone who transcended the limitations of his time. Because the diversity that Ricardo Alvarado was born into in his native Philippines influenced his perspective on the diversity he found in the United States, Alvarado's work challenges monolithic stereotypes while capturing the rich internal differences among Filipino-Americans, or *Pinoy*.

## A Norm of Diversity

The Philippine archipelago that Ricardo Alvarado left in 1928 consisted then, as it does now, of 7,100 islands. In addition to eight major dialects, which include Cebuano, Tagalog, and Ilocano, there are seventy other languages — some as distinct from one another as Khmer is from Swedish — spoken among some 220 self-identifying groups.

Cultural diversity was the norm in the Philippines of Alvarado's day. This diversity spanned the spectrum from tribes like the Igorat and Ilongot, nomadic hunter-gatherers who lived in isolated areas in small groups of 25; to the peoples of mixed Malay, Negrito, South Sea Island, Chinese, Spanish, Moorish, Japanese, Australian, and American origins, living together, to the tune of 2,136 per square mile, in the mestizo barrios of 1920s Manila.

As the economy of these islands became increasingly centralized under a few foreign corporations and elite nationals, members of the same matriarchal extended families worked as rural planters and harvesters, and urban processors and shippers. As these family-based, rural-urban networks formalized, more people found their way to the cities, and eventually to points of embarkation.

It was there, in relatively metropolitan areas like Manila, Cebu, and Davao, that previously distinct peoples became multi-lingual, formed commercial alliances, pooled resources, intermarried,



Musicians, California, ca. 1950. This portrait was taken of one of Alvarado's favorite subjects: mixed ethnic gatherings in California. (Photo by Ricardo Alvarado)

and established the networks that pushed and pulled the Manong diaspora to all points between, and to the mainland United States.

In sum, Ricardo Alvarado came from a place of acknowledged diversity. His recognition of this diversity, both at home and abroad, makes him "a product of his time."

The United States that he came to appears, in retrospect, to have had little knowledge or recognition of the diversity in its culturally and ethnically heterogeneous neighbor-

hoods. In this setting, Alvarado's photographs of San Francisco's Western Addition both transcend and are necessary correctives to the unfounded beliefs that racial and ethnic groups of the time lived in enclaves and, with the possible exception of the shop floor, did not mix.

## Between Assimilation and Pluralism

Assimilation — the idea that we are a "melting pot," that we merge

into a kind of cultural lockstep — has gone out of fashion. It has been replaced by the metaphor of the "salad bowl," and the theory that we remain "culturally plural" and ethnically unique.

While cultural pluralism is an important theory in its own right,

...the diversity that Ricardo Alvarado was born into in his native Philippines influenced his perspective on the diversity he found in the United States...

its real significance is as a corrective to an over-determined theory of assimilation. It is now common knowledge that we will never completely merge into one culture. However, we now extol excessively the virtues of pluralism. Neither assimilation nor pluralism in isolation capture the subtleties, complexities, and dynamics of cultural history or ethnic relations.

For example, if you are of Filipino heritage, as was Alvarado, but living in America, are you not an American? Are you not a product — victim, beneficiary, or what have you — of the best and worst that the United States has to offer? Are you not, to some contested degree, culturally assimilated?



Migrant Farm Children, California, ca. 1950. The earlier Filipino migrant farm communities maintained strong connections with their urban counterparts; Alvarado took this portrait on one of his visits to local farm areas. (Photo by Ricardo Alvarado)



# Humanities News

## California Humanities Network's [www.THINKCALIFORNIA.net](http://www.THINKCALIFORNIA.net) Launched

Set your browser to [www.THINKCALIFORNIA.net](http://www.THINKCALIFORNIA.net) to access the newest California culture resource. This February, the world will have new means of connecting with the latest news, best minds, model projects, funding opportunities, and to communicate with organizations and individuals involved with creating and conducting cultural programs about California.

The California Humanities Network's [www.THINKCALIFORNIA.net](http://www.THINKCALIFORNIA.net) will allow us to share best practices, communicate with one another, and disseminate crucial news and information affecting cultural programming in California. You will find a searchable directory called *California Thinkers*, created in partnership with the California Studies Association. *California Thinkers* will list scholars, writers, and culture bearers who have much to offer in the way of speaking and advising about California culture. You will also find a growing directory of model humanities projects to help you get your creative juices flowing: Find out what worked elsewhere and then talk directly with the person who created the project! If you think you have a model project to contribute to this directory, apply on-line! Communicate with your colleagues by joining the CHN listserv, or contribute your thoughts on a discussion board. The site will also offer funding information, including CCH's new Community Discussion and Community Heritage grants. Get the guidelines here and apply for the Community Discussion Grant on-line!

We hope that [www.THINKCALIFORNIA.net](http://www.THINKCALIFORNIA.net) will serve you and your community well as you contemplate how best to strengthen public humanities discussions about California.

## 1999 Chautauqua Grants Increased

Are you still seeking the perfect Sesquicentennial program? Look no further: The California Council for the Humanities has received additional funding for the *History Alive!* Chautauqua program. The new grant amounts will be \$700 for a mini-residency (1 large plus 2 smaller performances) and \$500 for a single public performance. This represents a grant increase of \$200, which will help defray the costs for travel and publicity. The new Chautauqua grants will be available after February 15, 1999, and apply only to grants awarded after that date. If you would like a grant application or would like other information on the *History Alive!* program, please call Joan Jasper, Chautauqua Scheduler, 888/543-4434.

## Gold Fever! Keeps on Spreading

The traveling exhibition *Gold Fever! Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush* continues to be a big hit in communities throughout the State, further enriching the partnerships between CCH and the museum and community institutions who belong to the California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA).

CCH has recently purchased two suitcase exhibits from the Oakland Museum Education Department to travel with the *Gold Fever!* exhibit. Entitled "Gold Rush Tools, Treasures, and Thingamajigs," the outreach kit includes replica artifacts, music, prints of artwork, and many more hands-on activities reflecting the daily life of Gold Rush participants. The museums hosting *Gold Fever!* can use these educational materials with school groups and to enrich the experience of visitors. Please see the calendar on pages 5-7 to see when *Gold Fever!* will be in your area.

## MOTHEREAD'S Third Annual Family Literacy Reception Larger than Ever

Community. Responsibility. Unconditional love. These are some of the themes you can find in the best children's books. They are also among the ideas that the parents in MOTHEREAD are trained to look for, to relate to their own lives, and eventually to read about and discuss with their families at home.

At MOTHEREAD's third annual literacy exhibit reception, jointly hosted on November 9, 1998, with the Los Angeles County Office of Education's (LACOE) Head Start Regionalized Family Services, agencies working in partnership with CCH's MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD program came together to celebrate Family Literacy Month. That afternoon, "Stories from the Heart," exhibits created by parents and staff from ten different community-based agencies and L.A. County organizations, showcased the individual and shared successes of a program which grows larger every year.

MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD helps train the staff of participating agencies to facilitate groups of adult learner parents in reading aloud and discussing books, both among themselves and at home. Parents are guided in how to find themselves in the characters, pictures, and stories of children's books, and are shown ways to bring home that message with dramatic reading skills and related interactive activities with their children. CCH also provides participating agencies with children's books. Upon completion of the program, parents receive a certificate and book to start a library of their own. The program now involves 30 agencies and has 85 active facilitators.

It is no surprise, then, that the MOTHEREAD reception has become, above all, a wonderful opportunity to share stories. Amidst presentations by LACOE's parent mentor group Migrant Education, and "We Tell Stories," a touring literacy-advocacy performance group, MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD parents testified to the profound, uplifting effect the literacy program has had on their and their families' lives. One participant, who has since gone on to become a MOTHEREAD facilitator, spoke movingly of the support she found upon first joining the parents group, and of how surprised and delighted her children were with the time they have spent reading together.

The ten literacy exhibits on display told similar stories in many ways. Friends of the Family, which was honored that day as MOTHEREAD Partner Agency of the Year for having conducted 32 different MOTHEREAD parent groups in 1998, created a "Wall of Literacy": The wall, consisting of bricks of such barriers to literacy as fear, racism, and hopelessness, is broken down by sunny photographs of the program's successes and many words of empowerment in cut-out hearts. Other exhibits showcased the poetry of participants and former head-start children, embroidery, book-making, and performance. The exhibits, which were all based on the books read in the program, remained on exhibit at LACOE for the remainder of Family Literacy Month.

For more information about CCH's MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD program in Los Angeles, please contact Debra Colman, Program Coordinator, at 213/623-5993.

Secondly, if you are of Filipino-American heritage, are you not aware of difference? Is not your identity, despite your best efforts, in fact *identities*, negotiated between so-called mainstream and tributary cultures? Are you not, to some contested degree, enmeshed in cultural pluralism?

Assimilation and pluralism are not polar opposites from which we must choose one or the other. Rather, they are a mutually dependent, binary pair, and it is the historical tension between the two, and not the exclusion of one or the other, that create internal differences within ethnic groups like the Pinoy.

Because Alvarado's photographic record shows an understanding of the tension between assimilation and pluralism, he is able to transcend the monolithic stereotypes of Filipinos as submissive mail-order brides, an unsophisticated third-world ethnic

group in a first-world country, and a culturally introverted people.

Instead, what we see are images of Pinoy from all walks of rural and urban life, participating in,

and integrating their own ways into, contemporary American traditions, and freely mixing in the extant ethnic diversity of the day. We see in these photos evidence of

situational ethnicity, as individuals are accepted as insiders by members of other ethnic groups.

In the photographic corpus of Ricardo O. Alvarado there is an inclusive worldview, and not one based on simplistic, politically correct notions of authenticity. It is in his photographs of the past that we find ever-present visions of diversity, the tension between assimilation and pluralism, and internal differences within ethnic groups like the Pinoy.

Alvarado recorded a diversity in 1940s and 50s America that would otherwise have gone undocumented. Through his work, the history of urban and rural Filipino Americans unfolds before us, allowing us to revel in the interaction and cooperation within heretofore unacknowledged culturally and ethnically diverse American localities.



San Francisco Farmer's Market, ca. 1950. Stall #46, with Bernal Heights in the background. (Photo by Ricardo Alvarado)



# Humanities News

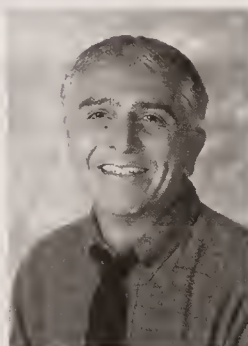
## Council Retreat in Riverside on March 11-13, 1999

The California Council for the Humanities' retreat will be held on March 11-13, 1999, at the Mission Inn in Riverside. For additional information, please contact Sarah Ashcroft in the Council's San Francisco office at 415/391-1474.

## New Council Board Members Announced



**Scott L. Bottles** is Senior Vice President and Principal, Real Estate Merchant Banking, Capital Markets Group, at Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. His 1987 book, *Los Angeles and the Automobile*, which examined the development of Southern California in response to the automobile, recently won the Donald H. Flueger Award from the Historical Society of Southern California. Bottles has served on several humanities and cultural affairs boards and holds a Ph.D. in American History and an M.B.A. in Finance and Accounting from UCLA.



**Edward Castillo**, Professor of Native American Studies at Sonoma State University, has served nationwide as a consultant for museums and many humanities-related endeavors, including the NEH-funded *Lost River: The Modoc Indian War of 1872-1873*. His contributions to the Smithsonian's *California* volume in the *Handbook of North American Indians* are a standard in the field of California Indian-white relations. Castillo holds an M.A. in Anthropology from UC Berkeley.



**Pedro Castillo** is a Professor of History and American Studies at UC Santa Cruz, where he teaches courses on California, the West, and Mexican-American history, and serves as co-director of the Chicano Latino Research Center. His most recent book, *The American Nation*, was published last year by Prentice Hall. Castillo, who has been involved in several NEH and CCH proposals as a humanities advisor and panel reviewer, holds a Ph.D. in History from UC Santa Barbara.



**Rafaela Castro** is a research librarian in the Humanities/Social Science Department of the Shields Library at UC Davis, where she is in charge of acquisitions for all areas of UC Davis' ethnic studies programs. Castro has served as librarian and director of a bilingual vocational training project of the U.S. Dept. of Education and as assistant director of Adelante, Inc., an adult education training program for Hispanic immigrants and Chicano high-school dropouts. She holds an M.L.S. in Library Science and an M.A. in Folklore from UC Berkeley.



**Deborah Kaufman** is a documentary film producer and director, and partner in Snitow-Kaufman Productions, specializing in work that deals with social and cultural issues. Her last film, *Blacks and Jews*, won numerous awards, was broadcast on PBS, and was showcased at Sundance and other film festivals. Prior to working on film production, Kaufman was the founding director of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival and has been active in a wide variety of multicultural, community, and arts organizations. Kaufman holds a J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law.

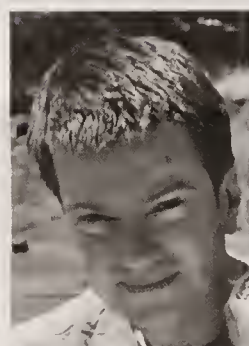
**Charlene Wear Simmons** is Assistant Director for General Law and Government at the California Research Bureau (CRB) in the California State Library, where, in addition to providing public policy research to the Governor and Legislature, she has initiated and manages the Internet information project CEDAR (California Economic Diversification and Revitalization), and the California Family Impact Seminar (CAFIS), a foundation-supported family policy project. Simmons, who holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from UC Davis, has also worked in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the California Assembly, and has served as Federal Liaison for the Employment Development Department.

## New Faces in the Council's Offices



**Sarah Ashcroft** joined the Council staff in November as office assistant, providing administrative support to the Council Board and executive director. Before coming to the Council, Ms. Ashcroft was a research assistant in the Department of Modern Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. Sarah received her B.A. in art history and sociology from Georgetown University in May 1998.

**Keren Ness** has been hired to join the Council's Los Angeles office as office assistant, beginning January 18, 1999. Keren is currently a docent at the Multimedia Learning Center of the Museum of Tolerance, and was a research assistant for the Global Action and Information Network. Keren has a B.A. in history and environmental studies from UC Santa Cruz.



**Mark Pothier** became CCH's new editor this past November. Before joining the Council staff, Mark was staff writer in the Publications Office at San Francisco State University, where he wrote and edited informational and development materials. Mark holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University.



**Judy Ramos** recently joined CCH as MOTHEREAD assistant in the Los Angeles office. Judy comes to the Council after working for more than four years as a teacher's assistant at Nueva Vista Magnet Elementary School. She is currently working toward her B.A. with a double major in child development and sociology at Cal State Los Angeles.

## Proposal-Writing Workshops Offered

The Council's program staff has scheduled the following proposal-writing workshops for people interested in applying for the Council's grants in the public humanities. The next deadline for major grants is April 1, 1999.

All proposal-writing workshops are free, but advance registration is required. When calling the office nearest you, please also request and read the current *Guide to the Grant Program* before attending the workshop.

### In San Francisco:

Wednesday, February 10, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Pro Arts, 461 Ninth St., Oakland.

Both public and media project grants will be discussed at this workshop, which is hosted jointly by Pro Arts and the City of Oakland: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services-Cultural Arts Division.

Thursday, February 11, 7-8:00 p.m., Film Artz Foundation 346 9th St. (between Folsom and Harrison), San Francisco.

Media projects will be the focus of this workshop, which is hosted jointly by California Newsreel, Cine Accion, Film Arts Foundation, Frameline, Jewish Film Festival, and National Asian American Telecommunications Association.

For more information, contact Re-Cheng Tsang, program officer, at 415/391-1474.

### In Los Angeles:

January 22 — Lompoc

January 29 — L.A. Office

February 18 — Ventura

February 19 — San Luis Obispo

February 26 — L.A. Office

Both public and media project grants will be discussed at all workshops. Attendance will be limited to 20; for reservation and information on times and locations, call 213/623-5993.

### In San Diego:

Thursday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Mission Trails Regional Park located at One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego.

Both public and media project grants will be discussed. For more information, call 619/235-2307.



# Membership and Development News

You can help enrich the lives of Californians in every part of the state by joining

## The 1999 Friends of the Humanities.

Your 1999 membership gift will support programs like:

◆ **MOTHEREAD**, the Council's ground-breaking literacy program for the whole family;



◆ **CERA** (The California Exhibition Resource Alliance), the Council's unique museum program which provides important new exhibits and educational programs on themes of critical importance to California audiences;



General View of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 1855. *de Young Collection.* (Photo by California Historical Society)



Looking West to Chimney Rock, Morrill County, Nebraska. Photo by Greg MacGregor. From CERA's "Overland" traveling exhibit.

◆ **Rediscovering California at 150**, the Council's multifaceted campaign to bring to public attention—and critical review—those events and individuals that led to California's birth as a state.

### Friends of the Humanities MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

#### **\$15-\$49 MEMBERSHIP:**

◆ A subscription to Humanities Network.

#### **\$50 AND UP MEMBERSHIP:**

- ◆ A subscription to Humanities Network.
- ◆ A copy of *Gold Rush!: A Literary Exploration*.

Please remember to enclose your tax-deductible contribution to the California Council for the Humanities.

If you have any questions, please call Julie Levak, Director of Development, at 415/391-1474

JUST SEND IN THE ATTACHED COUPON, OR PHONE US AT 415/391-1474

#### CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES Friends of the Humanities NEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: California Council for the Humanities  
312 Sutter Street, Suite 601  
San Francisco, CA 94108

### NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes for Teachers

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has announced its residential seminars and institutes for teachers during summer 1999.

For K-12 teachers, 20 seminars are offered — studies of the journals of the enlisted men who traveled with Lewis and Clark; comparative African literature; poetry of modern America; Beowulf and the Heroic Age; studies of epic literature, the Holocaust, and contemporary Latin American fiction; and others. Institutes for K-12 teachers will take place in settings that range from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to Harvard University to Senegal, on topics such as the Arab world and the West, the use of maps as texts to study world history, personal identity and freedom in African-American autobiography, and the history of technology in the United States.

For college and university teachers, 23 NEH seminars and institutes will focus on topics such as nature and society in Africa and the Americas, Roman Egypt, the philosophy of experimental inference, Black film studies, nineteenth-century Spanish realism, the Cold War, and others.

Applications are due March 1, 1999. Information and application forms for specific seminars and institutes are available from their directors. For complete lists of seminars and institutes (and the director for each), please see [www.neh.gov/html/awards/seminar1.html](http://www.neh.gov/html/awards/seminar1.html) for K-12 programs, or [www.neh.gov/html/awards/seminar2.html](http://www.neh.gov/html/awards/seminar2.html) for college and university programs.

### National Humanities Center's "The Writing of African American Identity" Summer Institute

From June 27 to July 16, 1999, the National Humanities Center (NHC) will offer "The Writing of African American Identity: Self, Race, and Gender," an institute for high school English teachers.

How have writers defined African American identity? What is the relationship between freedom and identity in African American literature? How have African American women writers approached the task of self-definition in their work? "The Writing of African American Identity" will examine the evolution of these themes in twelve works by African American writers in a program designed to give teachers a sound thematic approach applicable to a wide variety of African American texts.

For more information write to Summer Institute Office, National Humanities Center, P.O. Box 12256, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; visit at [www.nhc.nc.us.8080](http://www.nhc.nc.us.8080); or e-mail [summrins@ga.unc.edu](mailto:summrins@ga.unc.edu) Application deadline is March 1, 1999.



# CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

The humanities explore human histories, cultures, and values. They inform the conversations that are vital to a thriving democracy. They provide a context for people to understand one another. They constitute our most important human inheritance.

The purpose of the California Council for the Humanities is to create a state in which all Californians have lifelong access to this shared inheritance. The Council's mission is to lead in strengthening community life and fostering multicultural understanding throughout California, through programming which provides access to the texts and insights of the humanities. The Council is an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and operates as a public-private partnership rather than as a governmental agency.

From 1998 until 2000, the Council will encourage and develop compelling public programming commemorating the events that led to the founding of the state of California 150 years ago and examining the continuing impact of those events today. The Council's own "Rediscovering California at 150" programs include "History Alive! Chautauqua" presentations featuring portrayals of major figures of the era; the creation of the anthology, *Gold Rush! A Literary Exploration* (in partnership with Heyday Books) and reading and discussion groups focusing on that anthology; a traveling Gold Rush museum exhibition (commissioned from the Oakland Museum); and a California Sesquicentennial grants program.

Council programs also include the California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA), which provides a means of sharing exhibits and programming among members of a network of smaller museums; Matheread, a family reading program in Los Angeles; and the California Humanities Network, a two-year community history and resource project supported by the James Irvine Foundation.

In addition, the Council conducts a competitive grants program. Since 1975, it has awarded more than \$13 million to over 2,000 non-profit organizations, enabling them to produce exhibits, film and radio programs, and lecture series and conferences on topics significant to California.

The Council is an independent, not-for-profit organization. It is supported by grants from NEH, corporations and foundations, and by contributions from individuals.

Major grant proposals are due on April 1 and October 1. Quick Grants - proposal planning grants, minigrants, film-and-speaker grants - are accepted on the first day of each month. Interested non-profit organizations should request a copy of the Guide to the Grant Program from the San Francisco office.

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## NEXT PROPOSAL DEADLINE: April 1, 1999

Proposals must conform to the 1997-1999 *Guide to the Grant Program*. Send 15 copies to the San Francisco office by the due date.

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